

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

In the present invention, the cerium oxide containing ceramic material comprises one or more cerium oxides. According to the invention, the cerium oxide or oxides comprise the single largest constituent of the ceramic material. The cerium oxide may be Ce(III) oxide or a Ce(IV) oxide. The cerium oxide containing ceramic material according to the invention may also contain alumina, zirconia, yttria, and other oxides, nitrides, borides, fluorides and carbides of elements of Groups IIA, IIIA, IVA, VA, VIA, VIIA, VIIIA, IB, IIB, IIIB, IVB, and VB. The ceramic material according to the invention may also comprise any oxide, nitride, boride, fluoride or carbide of any of the elements of the ~~actinide~~ lanthanide series (e.g., those elements having an atomic number of 58 - 71). Particularly preferred materials in this group are cerium boride and cerium nitride.